

DIVISION OF DISABILITY SERVICES

VISIONS

Volume 2, Issue 2

September, 2002

William A. B. Ditto, Director

Disability Advocates Mourn Justin Dart, Jr.

Justin Dart, Jr., a leader of the international disability rights movement and a renowned human rights activist, died on June 22, 2002 at his home in Washington D.C. Widely recognized as "the father of the Americans with Disabilities Act" and "the godfather of the disability rights movement," Dart had for the past several years struggled with the complications of post-polio syndrome and congestive heart failure. He was 71 years old. He is survived by his wife, Yoshiko, their extended family of foster children, his many friends and colleagues, and millions of disability and human rights activists all over the world. Dart was a leader in the disability rights movement for three decades, and an advocate for the rights of women, people of color, and gays and lesbians. The recipient of five presidential appointments and numerous honors, including the Hubert Humphrey Award of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, Dart was on the podium on the White House lawn when President George H. Bush signed the ADA into law in July 1990. Dart was also a highly successful entrepreneur, using his personal wealth to further his human rights agenda by generously contributing to organizations, candidates, and individuals, becoming what he called "a little PAC for empowerment."

In 1998, Dart received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award. "Justin Dart," said

Dart, continued on page 3

Wilson Named Deputy Commissioner for Divisions Serving People with Disabilities

Theresa C. "Terri" Wilson was appointed Deputy Commissioner for Divisions Serving People with Disabilities on June 3, 2002. As Deputy Commissioner, Ms. Wilson oversees the operations of the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), the Division of Mental Health Services (DMHS), the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH), the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI), the Division of Disability Services (DDS), the new Facilities Support Unit and the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund (CICRF). Ms. Wilson also serves as the Commissioner's designee on the State Board of Social Work Examiners.

Since 1988, Theresa C. Wilson has served as Assistant Director of the New Jersey Division of Mental Health Services where she coordinated, administered, managed and supervised the community and institutional Mental Health System.

Ms. Wilson supervised state psychiatric hospitals, contracts with non-profit agencies for Community Mental Health Services and monitored other county and psychiatric units in local general hospitals.

Prior to joining the State of New Jersey, she worked as Assistant Director and Executive Director of SERV Centers of New Jersey, Inc. for ten years.

Over the past twenty years, Ms. Wilson has served as a member of Professional Advisory Committees for Mental Health, Residential Programs, Juvenile Conference Committees, in an advisory capacity to Department of Housing and Urban Development and on numerous Boards for Community Advocacy and Development.

Ms. Wilson has a Master's degree from Rutgers Graduate School of Social Work and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Ms. Wilson and her husband, Tyler Wilson, have one son, Trevor, who is attending Penn State University. ♦

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SAVE THE DATE

September

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Peer Support & Understanding Recovery
NJ Self Help Clearinghouse 800-367-6274
- 14 Beachwheels Day 2002 908-688-3745
- 23 Emergency Planning for People with
Disabilities PCIL 609-530-0006
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- 28 Transition Traffic: Addressing the Needs of
Students with Disabilities
DAWN, Inc 973-361-5666

October . . . is Disability Awareness Month

- 4 Work Incentives A-Z Newark, NJ
888-285-3036
- 10 Work Incentives A-Z New Brunswick, NJ
888-285-3036
- 16 National Disability Mentoring Day
- 18 Work Incentives A-Z Atlantic City, NJ
888-285-3036
- 22 Family Support Awareness Day
800-FSC-NJ10

VISIONS

on the web

www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dds

CONTRIBUTIONS

We welcome contributions from New Jersey disability service providers and organizations. If you would like to contribute to subsequent issues of this newsletter, please contact Joseph Amoroso at the Division of Disability Services, P.O. Box 700, Trenton, NJ 08625, or fax information to (609) 292-1233.

VISIONS

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John Lee, Volunteer, Information and Referral

CORRECTION POLICY

It is our policy to correct all significant errors. If you believe we have made such an error, please contact Joseph Amoroso at the Division of Disability Services, (609) 292-7800, or write to him at P.O. Box 700, Trenton, NJ 08625-0700.

Dart, Continued from page 1

Clinton in 1996, "in his own way has the most Olympian spirit I believe I have ever come across."

Until the end, Dart remained dedicated to his vision of a "revolution of empowerment." This would be, he said, "a revolution that confronts and eliminates obsolete thoughts and systems, that focuses the full power of science and free-enterprise democracy on the systematic empowerment of every person to live to his or her God-given potential." Dart never hesitated to emphasize the assistance he received from those working with him, most especially his wife of more than thirty years, Yoshiko Saji. "She is," he often said, "quite simply the most magnificent human being I have ever met."

Justin Dart, Jr. was born on August 29, 1930, into a wealthy and prominent family. His grandfather was the founder of the Walgreen Drugstore chain, his father a successful business executive, his mother a matron of the American avant-garde. Dart would later describe how he became "a super loser" as a way of establishing his own identity in this family of "super winners."

Dart contracted polio in 1948. With doctors saying he had less than three days to live, he was admitted into the Seventh Day Adventist Medical University in Los Angeles. "For the first time in my life I was surrounded by people who were openly expressing love for each other, and for me, even though I was hostile to them. And so I started smiling at people, and saying nice things to them. And they responded, treating me even better. It felt so good! Three days turned into forty years, but Dart never forgot this lesson. Polio left Dart a wheelchair user, but he never grieved about this. "I count the good days in my life from the time I got polio. These beautiful people not only saved my life; they made it worth saving.

Dart went into business in 1956, building several successful companies in Mexico and Japan. He started Japan Tupperware with three employees in 1963, and by 1965 it had expanded to some 25,000. Dart used his businesses to provide work for women and people with disabilities. In Japan, for example, he took severely disabled people out of institutions, gave them paying jobs within his company, and organized some of them into Japan's first wheelchair basketball team. It was during this time that he met his wife, Yoshiko.

In 1981, President Ronald Reagan appointed Dart to be the vice-chair of the National Council on Disability. The Darts embarked on a nationwide tour, at their own expense, meeting with activists in every state. Dart and others on the Council drafted a national policy that called for national civil rights legislation to end the centuries old discrimination of people with disabilities -- what would eventually become the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. ♦

To view the unabridged obituary, please visit
<http://www.ifanow.org/>

The Dart File

- 1930 Justin Dart Born
- 1948 Contracted Polio
- 1956 Founded Japan Tupperware
- 1966 Founded rehabilitation center in Vietnam
- 1980 Named chair of Texas Committee for Persons with Disabilities
- 1981 Reagan appointment him as vice chair of National Council on Disability
- 1986 Appointed head of the Rehabilitation Services Administration
- 1988 Appointed to chair the Congressional Task Force on the Rights and Empowerment of People with Disabilities
- 1989 Appointed chair of President's Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities
- 1990 ADA signed into law
- 1994 Founded Justice for All
- 1998 Presidential Medal of Freedom



Low-Interest Loans Available for Low Income Families

Working parents who need emergency cash to fix or buy a car, cover housing costs or pay for child care can acquire low-interest loans through five community action agencies across the state that are administering the New Jersey Department of Human Services' (DHS) Family Loan Program.

"We want to let people know that this program is available," said DHS Commissioner Gwendolyn L. Harris. "These loans can help parents meet those sudden, unexpected expenses so they can keep working. The goal is to help people before they slide into a financial crisis."

The Department of Human Services initiated the Family Loan program in early 2001, awarding \$104,000 grants to five agencies serving different regions of the state. The DHS grants cover staff and administrative costs, while the agencies secured \$300,000 each in private funding to establish loan pools.

The loans range from \$500 to \$3,000 per family, with the biggest loans targeted for cars -- up to \$1,000 to fix a car and \$3,000 to buy one.

So far, the five agencies have issued about \$200,000 in loans, roughly 15 percent of the total funds available.

To be eligible, parents must have been working at least 20 hours per week for six consecutive months. A single parent or the head of a two-parent household is eligible. The income limit is 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, or \$37,550 a year for a family of three.

Parents served by the program might be denied traditional bank loans because they are considered poor credit risks. The loans must be repaid over two years at 6- to 8-percent interest. The families also receive mandatory financial counseling.

In addition to car expenses, loans are available for child care (up to \$800); a mortgage or other housing costs (\$850); and job-related expenses, such as tools or uniforms (\$500).

Loans should not be used for credit card bills, taxes, fines, business or travel expenses, or educational costs, such as tuition or books.

Loan, continued on page 20

For Pity's Sake

By Javier Robles, J.D.
Deputy Director
Division of Disability Services

To many individuals, nothing can be more severe and emotionally devastating than finding out that they will be disabled for the duration of their life. This realization sometimes becomes a catapult for inaction and a long life of steadfast self-pity. As a society, we have learned to accept and encourage what I like to call the "Ay Bendito" syndrome. Roughly translated from the Spanish slang from which it originates, it means "poor baby" or "poor thing." In my culture, it exemplifies pity and compassion. It is one of those terms, which connotes the helplessness of a situation: essentially, "I empathize with you, but can do nothing. It is in the hands of a divine power."

This type of labeling leads many to believe that when the "Ay Bendito" syndrome is invoked, we are conceding that nothing can be done. However, nothing leads to nothing, and cultural nuances must sometimes take a backseat to reality. We, as a society, cannot afford the luxury of pity. Pity promotes the mindset that it is enough to do nothing for a class of citizens, provided one's heart feels for their situation.

We all feel badly for the child from a third-world country with a distended stomach. But how many times does that bad feeling lead to action? Pity is the epitome of excusable inaction! We should change our expectations so that we view pity as a form of oppression, placed upon groups or individuals when society can not meet their needs. Once we view pity as a tool of oppression, we can begin to see how it interferes with progress, and we can strive to remove its barriers.

Progress can be measured for some people in small steps and for other people, in big leaps. No matter how you measure it, progress begins when we accept the facts of a situation and can use pity, when convenient, to meet our goals. Pity has not always had negative consequences for people with disabilities. For example, at one point in American history, before the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Work Incentives Act of 1999, and even before the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, pity was used by the disabled and non-disabled alike, to get goods and services. Easter Seals, for example, used pity to send thousands of kids with disabilities to summer camps by appealing to Americans to buy Easter Seals stamps. Many individuals with disabilities would then, as now, beg for money on the streets to exploit the pity factor.

Pity, continued on page 23

CONSUMER PERSPECTIVE

I and R Services: More Than Just Phone Numbers

By **Trudy Deutsch Ringos, NJ**

I have a motor neuron disease and I am completely disabled. I have a tracheotomy, and use a ventilator at night, and I am tube-fed. My wonderful husband, Jerry, is my 24-hour caregiver. When Jerry had a stroke, my friends and family rallied around. Jerry was taken to the Medical Center, but what do we do with me? I called my visiting nurse's office for advice. They contacted my physician and, several hours later, I was told he would admit me to the hospital through the emergency department.

The hospital social worker handed me a paper listing vent facilities, and I got a letter from the hospital informing me that though they will forgive the first two days' fees, I would be responsible for the balance. I was supposed to find another place for myself. This presented many problems. First, I can't hold a phone; second, due to my tracheotomy, speaking is almost impossible, especially on the telephone. Third, the hospital's phones didn't allow toll calls.

Luckily, Jerry recovered and we were both discharged in five days. Soon afterward, I received a bill for over \$6,500. They ignored their own letter forgiving the fees the first two days (even after I faxed them a copy).

My case went to the Peer Review Organization (PRO), which reviews Medicare denials. The denial was upheld, but I was allowed to contest the decision, which I did, although I had no hope of changing it.

The following week, while visiting the Abilities Expo, I found myself telling my story to Joe Amoroso, at the NJ Division of Disability Services' exhibit. He immediately advised me to request a personal hearing at PRO, and to contact him in two days to allow him to do some research.

Joe gave me several excellent arguments to present at the hearing, which were received with great interest. The PRO found that the Medical Center's social worker was negligent in not finding another facility for me. This was Joe's main contention—the Medical Center was neither a hotel nor a respite facility, and the social worker's job was to do more than just hand me a list.

Joe's advice was of inestimable value. The PRO decision was reversed, and my bill was waived. I am very grateful to him and the NJ Division of Disability Services' staff for the advice and assistance that they provided. ♦

NJ WORKABILITY NEWS

DDS Hosts Regional Work Incentive Forums

The Division of Disability Services is pleased to announce that it will host 3 regional forums in the month of October to provide information on the state and federal Work Incentive Programs.

The forums, entitled **Work Incentives A to Z**, will provide an overview of available employment-related services and permit time for questions and answers with expert panelists.

Seating is limited. Priority will be given to individuals with disabilities. The program will be from 9am-4pm. Deadline for registration is September 13, 2002. Questions and accommodation requests should be directed to Pablo Viera at 888-285-3036. ♦

Northern Region

Friday, October 4, 2002

Sheraton Newark Airport Hotel, Newark, NJ

Central Region

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Rutgers University, Busch Campus, Student Center New Brunswick, NJ

Southern Region

Friday, October 18, 2002

Atlantic City Convention Center
Atlantic City, NJ

Roman-Ceballos Joins Medicaid Infrastructure Grant Staff

Program Manager Pablo Viera is pleased to announce that Iliana Roman-Ceballos has joined the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant staff as a program assistant.

Ms. Roman-Ceballos assumes her new position after an 18-month tenure as an Enrollment Specialist with the Personal Preference Program.

"Iliana brings important disability-related experience to our program. With Iliana on board it's like having a dynamo to attend the increased demand for our services," said Viera.

Ms. Roman-Ceballos is a graduate of the College of New Jersey with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. ♦

Personal Preference Consumer Featured on Today Show

By **Renee S. Davidson**
Division of Disability Services

Dorothy Minor, a consumer in the Personal Preference Program: New Jersey's Cash & Counseling Demonstration Project, appeared on NBC's "Today Show," last month. In an interview that aired on June 30th, Ms. Minor, accompanied by her son and caregiver, Fankie Epps, detailed her participation in the program and its benefits to them.

Mr. Epps told the "Today Show," "I like being able to spend more time with my mom and I know that she is getting the care she needs." "I like having the control of hiring who I want to work for me and when I want them to work. I can also fire my workers if things don't work out. I had to fire my other son because he didn't take his job responsibilities seriously," stated Ms. Minor. Ms. Minor, a resident of Roselle, has been a program participant since October of 2000.

The Personal Preference Program is a national research and demonstration project sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Using the concept of "consumer direction," it allows elderly and disabled Medicaid-eligible recipients to manage their personal care services. Through a monthly cash allowance, participants in the Demonstration work with a consultant to develop a Cash Management Plan (CMP), by which they decide the services they need and the individuals and or agencies they wish to hire to provide the identified services. The program requires greater consumer responsibility but offers participants greater control, flexibility, and choice. ♦

Authors Wanted For Statewide Competition

The Unlimited Potential Theater Company, a project of Very Special Arts New Jersey, is seeking poems, essays, and plays from New Jersey residents 18 years or older, for its ninth annual New Jersey Wordsmith's Competition.

The competition is open to all writers and submissions from writers with disabilities are encouraged. All works submitted will be juried by a panel of judges who are professionally affiliated with the theater and/or literature. Selected works will be showcased at the New Jersey Reader's Theater, followed by a reception in honor of the author. Submission deadline is October 15, 2002. Applications may be obtained by calling 732-745-3883, 745-5935 or 745-3913 TTY or info@vsanj.org ♦ Taken From Sharing

PASP Hosts Regional Training Conference

By **Michael A. Nuskey**
Division of Disability Services

The Division of Disability Services continued with efforts to improve and enhance the delivery of services under the Personal Assistance Services Program (PASP) through the presentation of regional training for program consumers and personal assistants who are employed under PASP.

A southern regional training session was held in Atlantic City at the Holiday Inn Boardwalk on June 21 and 22, 2002, at which a total of eight workshops were offered to participants over the two-day period. The purpose for conducting a two-day workshop on the weekend is to enable consumers and personal assistants to complete their mandatory training requirements and also provide opportunities to network with each other and discuss pertinent issues related to the program.

The workshops were coordinated and presented by Community Access Unlimited, under a contract with the Division of Disability Services. A total of 38 participants were in attendance, including 27 personal assistants and 11 consumers. The 38 participants represented Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex and Ocean Counties.

Community Access is currently planning future regional training for consumers and personal assistants in the northern region, which will take place in November. ♦

DDS Welcomes Armah

Division Director William A. B. Ditto is pleased to announce the addition of Edmund K. Armah to the DDS staff.

Mr. Armah joins DDS as the Coordinator of Information Systems. In his new capacity, Mr. Armah will be responsible for internal hardware support and database and web development.

"Technology is essential to serving individuals with disabilities. Edmund's technical expertise will serve the Division on many levels," said Ditto.

Mr. Armah is a 2001 graduate of the Citone Institute, where he was on the Dean's List, and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering Sciences from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. ♦

THE ACCESSIBLE WEB

Working from Home: Opportunities for People with Disabilities

By **Daisy Gomez**
Division of Disability Services

A person with a disability is entitled to work and earn income. This can often be facilitated through telecommuting, a form of work that allows the individual to work from home, much the same as someone in the office might do.

There are certainly advantages to this method of working. For instance, it eliminates any form of unnecessary or undesired commuting from home to the workplace. The web is a great way to start searching for these types of job opportunities, but perhaps an overwhelming one for someone who is unfamiliar with it. The following information was obtained in an effort to assist persons who are a bit timid about using the web, by providing them with prescreened sites and how to use them to facilitate their search:

eLANCE.com: at first glance, this web site is easy to comprehend. It is not cluttered with graphics or overuses of colors, which makes finding the desired location from the home page a very easy task. The first thing to pop up is a search option from Elance. Typing in 'telecommuting' directs you to a page with everything related to that particular type of job. Located at the bottom of the list is the option to "see all telecommuting projects." Clicking on this option allows you to view all the available jobs and even those that are now closed. Bids can be placed under any available job allowing for the possibility to be hired for that specific task. There is a fee for this service

bullhorn.com: this web site, although helpful, is not as clean cut as the previous. Upon opening the main page, the job offers can be located on the bottom left-hand side of the screen, under the title, "bullhorn job." Browsing their job bank will allow you to view all the possible jobs available.

tjobs.com: this site is far more colorful than the previous two, but is dedicated entirely to telecommunicating jobs. It is easy to follow after getting onto the home page. Each job can be viewed and accessed through various sub-categories. In addition, it provides you with other useful links. For example, the link for freelance jobs is available through their site.

Also recommended are yahoo.com and google.com. Both search engines produced similar useful results that are just as easy to navigate as those described above. ♦

Tips for Successfully Working from Home:

1. Treat it like a regular work day
2. Keep your normal hours
3. Limit distractions
4. Set up a work area
5. Bring the right type of work home

CPL Offers Free Medical Child Care

The Cerebral Palsy League is offering free child care to children between the age of 6 months to 6 years, if he or she suffers from asthma, seizures, eating problems, diabetes, or illnesses requiring special care. If your child receives Medicaid, you may be entitled to the benefits offered by the Come Play & Learn Center in Union, NJ.

Your child may be eligible to receive quality care and pre-school classes (Monday- Friday, 8:30-4:00), and special transportation to and from the center.

The center provides a full-time nursing staff and a specially trained teaching staff. Your child's medical needs may be met at no cost to you.

For more information, please contact:

Cerebral Palsy League's Come & Play Center
373 Clermont Terrace
Union, NJ 07083
Tel: (908) 354-5800 ♦

"Living Well" Workbooks Available

A series of workbooks entitled "Living Well with MS" has been introduced by the National MS Society. The topics covered include several that would be equally applicable to people experiencing Post Polio Syndrome (PPS).

The titles are: "Coping with Change," "MS and Wellness," and "Considering Assistive Devices." To receive a workbook, or for more information, call the Chapter Services Department at 1-800-833-0087 or 201-986-7539. ♦

Taken from: NJ Polio Network Newsletter

WOMAN TO WOMAN

DDC Health Care Steering Committee Launches New Publication

**By Christine Cripps-Barker, C.I.R.S
Division of Disability Services**

Health Access for Women with Disabilities is the first publication of the Developmental Disabilities Council Health Care Steering Committee. The newsletter, published quarterly, is designed to address the various health care issues affecting women with disabilities. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide a forum to develop ways to improve the quality of health care for women with disabilities, increase awareness of the health care service delivery systems, and to increase sensitivity towards the specific health care needs of women with disabilities.

The inaugural issue, entitled, "Mammography and Disability," discusses breast self-examinations, access to mammography services, preventative breast-cancer screenings and the current legislation concerning health care for women with disabilities.

For a free copy of the newsletter contact NJDDC, PO Box 700, Trenton, NJ 08625; 609-292-3745. The newsletter may also be accessed online at the Developmental Disability Council website: www.njddc.org. The newsletter is also available in large print and audiotope. ♦

Health Access welcomes your comments and suggestions.

Villanova College of Nursing Conducts Study of Women with Disabilities

Villanova University, College of Nursing, is recruiting women with disabilities to participate in focus groups. They want to elicit ideas about strategies to provide health promotion and other health related information to women with disabilities who are "hard-to-reach."

These include women who do not often participate in workshops and educational programs outside the home; women isolated from others because of their disability; and women who cannot benefit from the usual educational workshops because of visual or hearing loss, or language barriers.

The groups will be held in accessible locations and by phone conference calls. A cash incentive of \$25 will be paid to participants. ♦

If you have ideas about how to reach women with disabilities who fit the description of the study or, would like to participate, please call, write, or email for more information:

Suzanne C. Smeltzer, RN, Ed, FAAN, Director
Health Promotion for Women with Disabilities
Villanova University, College of Nursing
800 Lancaster Avenue
Villanova, PA 19085
610-519-6828
Suzanne.smeltzer@villanova.edu

Woman, continued page 13

NJCOWD Announces Scholarship Program

**By Dorothy McDowell
President, NJCOWD**

In 1999, the New Jersey Coalition on Women and Disabilities, Inc. (NJCOWD) established a scholarship program for women with disabilities who were attending college or other schools of higher education in New Jersey. The first \$350 scholarship was awarded in 2000 to Donna Fitzpatrick, a student at Sussex County Community College. Donna was a Dean's List student, despite having numerous physical and developmental disabilities as the result of a traumatic injury and subsequent hospitalizations.

The scholarship program expanded in 2001. Two \$500 scholarships were awarded to women with disabilities who attended colleges in New Jersey. In addition, three students received \$50 bonds in recognition of their outstanding achievements. The awards were presented at a ceremony and luncheon held in November.

This year, five scholarships and three bonds will be awarded on October 22, 2002 to women with disabilities who are students in colleges that include: Rutgers and Princeton Universities, Rider University, Camden County College and Raritan Valley Community College.

The Coalition plans to continue expanding this program by reaching out to the corporate community and private sector for contributions to fund additional scholarships. All contributions are tax-deductible. For more information or to make a donation, please contact Lynn Spatzer, NJCOWD Vice President, at (609) 984-3349. ♦

NATIONAL NEWS

Project Connect Puts Used Wireless Phones to Work

The growing question of what to do with your previously used wireless phone is finally answered. Sprint's PCS division announced an official "call to action" for wireless users nationwide to donate their previously used wireless phones at the nearest Sprint Store and participating Easter Seals location to help people with disabilities. Through Sprint Project Connect, donated wireless phones will be recycled and resold with a portion of proceeds benefiting Easter Seals and the National Organization on Disability (N.O.D.)—two key national disability groups.

"Easter Seals and the National Organization on Disability do so much to assist people with disabilities—from treatment and rehabilitation to education and employment," said Charles Levine, president of Sprint's wireless division. "We are proud to support the important efforts of these two well-respected organizations while providing a new answer to the question of what to do with your previously used wireless phone."

Sprint Project Connect is the first nationwide campaign in support of the Wireless Foundation's Donate a Phone Return Outreach Initiative, a new program designed to help wireless carriers raise funds for their charity of choice through the collection of used wireless phones.

"In the coming year alone, the number of estimated wireless handsets lying idle in American homes and businesses could grow to 55 million," said David Diggs, Wireless Foundation executive director. "And, more than 54 million Americans—one-fifth of the population—have a physical, sensory or mental disability."

"We are pleased to work with Sprint to turn some of these handsets into dollars that will help people with disabilities."

"The National Organization on Disability is delighted to partner with Sprint to increase the involvement of Americans with disabilities in all aspects of life," said N.O.D. President Alan A. Reich. "Project Connect will help our programs increase opportunities for people to study, work, and participate in all aspects of community life."

"Easter Seals' nationwide network of affiliates looks forward to working with Sprint Project Connect to enhance and expand our services that help people with disabilities live more independent lives. Funds raised will support Easter Seals primary services for children and adults with disabilities: medical rehabilitation, job training and employment, inclusive child care, adult day services, and camping and recreation," explains James E. Williams, president and CEO, Easter Seals.

Award-winning actress, Marlee Matlin, is serving as the national spokesperson for Sprint Project Connect. She became deaf at the age of 18 months after a bout with Roseola Infantum. That has not prevented her from living a full life and becoming a successful actress.

In fact, at age 21, Matlin became the youngest recipient of the Best Actress Oscar for her 1987 motion picture debut in "Children of a Lesser God." Beyond her movie career, she has also starred in a number of television shows including "ER," "Spin City," "Gideon's Crossing," "Judging Amy," "Seinfeld," "The Practice" and "Picket Fences," and currently can be seen in her role as Joey Lucas on "The West Wing."

"I'm honored that Sprint asked for my support in developing and communicating this extraordinary campaign," said Matlin.

"The more resources we can provide to organizations like Easter Seals and N.O.D., the more opportunities we open up for people with disabilities."

Joining Matlin at the FDR Memorial for the program's announcement was Bob Dole, the veteran Kansas Senator. Dole, who has lived with a physical disability since being injured in World War II, was one of the champions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which Congress passed in 1990. The FDR Memorial provided a fitting backdrop. President Roosevelt led the country to victory in World War II, despite having had polio and used a wheelchair throughout his presidency.

Robert Graham's statue of him in his wheelchair, the result of a N.O.D. campaign, was dedicated last year. To launch Sprint Project Connect, Sprint is making an initial \$200,000 contribution to Easter Seals and N.O.D. The goal of the campaign is to raise an additional \$500,000 in the first year via the phone collection effort.

"The Sprint Foundation is proud to make this initial donation to show our full support of both Easter Seals and N.O.D.," said Ed Matix, senior vice president of Sprint Public Relations and Brand Management, and chair of the Sprint Foundation.

"Through Sprint Project Connect, we will be able to generate substantial funds that will make a significant and lasting difference to people with disabilities."

Older and obsolete models of wireless phones will be accepted but may have no value and thus, may not generate funds.

However, these phones will be recycled in an environmentally sound manner. To learn more about Sprint Project Connect, please visit www.sprintpcs.com. ♦

Taken from: Access News

Glaxo Issues Drug Warning

By **Lauran Neergaard,**
Associated Press

Washington—Patients prescribed the AIDS drug Combivir should immediately make sure they got the right pills, the manufacturer says, after people in four states bought Combivir bottles that actually contained another AIDS drug called Ziagen.

The tampering could be dangerous. About 5 percent of people who take Ziagen can suffer potentially life-threatening allergic reactions—something patients thinking they were taking Combivir wouldn't have been warned about since that drug doesn't carry the same risk, the company said.

Another problem: Combivir provides HIV patients with two anti-viral medications in one pill, while Ziagen is one completely different anti-viral drug. An unintentional switch could lower the effectiveness of a patient's therapy.

Glaxo makes both drugs, shipping them in pre-sealed bottles. The company said its own investigation had ruled out a manufacturing glitch and that the Ziagen in the mislabeled bottles is real and not tainted—meaning someone sold Ziagen with a counterfeit Combivir label.

A 60 tablet bottle of Combivir costs about \$200 more than the same amount of Ziagen. So far, four bottles—in Connecticut, Maryland, Florida and California—have been discovered, Glaxo said.

The Food and Drug Administration's criminal investigations unit is probing the problem. No illnesses have been reported.

"There is a concern that this is not some simple mix-up in production," said the FDA's Dr. Mark Goldberger. But "the big concern now is to get the word out," he added.

- Combivir is a white capsule-shaped tablet engraved with "GX FC3" on one side.
- Ziagen is a yellow capsule-shaped tablet engraved with "GX 623" on one side.

Patients should immediately check that their Combivir bottles contain the right drug—and pharmacists should open new bottles in front of customers so both can see if its' really Combivir before the patient leaves the store, Glaxo spokeswoman Mary Anne Rhyne advised.

Anyone with questionable medication should return the bottles to Glaxo for investigation. Patients and pharmacists with questions can call 1-888-825-5249. ♦

Project ALS Remembers Gehrig

By **Joseph Amoroso, M. A., C.I.R.S**
Division of Disability Services

This July marked the 63 anniversary of Lou Gehrig's famous retirement speech from the New York Yankees in which he declared himself "the luckiest man on the face of the earth." In celebration of this event, 14 stars, including James Gandalfini and Jason Preistly, agreed to recite Gehrig's speech before various Major League Baseball games on June 1, 2002. The event was planned to raise money for the ALS Project, an organization to assist individuals with ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease

Off-Broadway theater producer, Jenifer Estess, founded project ALS in 1997, after she was diagnosed with the disorder at the age of 35. It has so far provided \$11 million directly to research aimed at stamping out the disease. ALS is a rare degenerative motor neuron disease that attacks nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, proving fatal to half its victims within three years.

At the time of his retirement, Gehrig had earned the nickname "The Iron Horse" by playing in 2,130 consecutive games. During his tenure in pinstripes, Geherig notched 100 Runs and 100 RBIs for 13 consecutive seasons that saw the Yankees capture six championship titles behind his .316 avg. Gehrig's career hit its zenith in 1931, when he won the Triple Crown. In 1939, Gehrig was elected to the Hall of Fame by special ballot. ♦

Companies Set Up Customer Service Helplines for MS Drugs

Teva Neuroscience	
Copaxone	800-221-4026

Biogen	
Avonex	800-221-4026

Berlex	
Betaseron	800-788-1467

Serno	
Rebif	877-44-REBIF

Immunex	
Novantone	800-466-8639
Taken from:	Common Vision 8/02

AROUND THE STATE

Mercer County

PCIL Hosts Conference on Emergency Planning

Are you prepared for an emergency? The Progressive Center for Independent Living (PCIL) is sponsoring a conference entitled, "Emergency Planning that Includes People with Disabilities" on Monday, September 23rd at the Marriott in Trenton. The conference will begin at 8:30 with registration and will conclude at 3:30 PM. There will be a panel of four speakers including Elizabeth Davis (National Organization on Disability newly appointed Director of Emergency Preparedness Initiative), Alan Clive (FEMA), Peg Blechman (Access Board) and Mary Goepfert (NJ Office of Emergency Management).

PCIL would like to invite businesses, schools, state/local government offices, hospitals, housing authorities, fire, police, rescue people and people who have disabilities to attend this conference. There will be a minimal registration fee that will include all expenses (including continental breakfast and a hot lunch). There will be opportunities for people with disabilities to be sponsored to attend this conference.

Scott Elliot, Executive Director of PCIL, expects the outcome of the program will be "to enlighten people about the need for planning, practicing, and to let them know what resources are available and current plans that exist. We also expect information on new technology and techniques that exist for evacuation of facilities."

For more information or to receive a registration form and brochure call: The Progressive Center for Independent Living, voice (609) 530-0006, TTY (609) 530-1234, fax (609) 530-1166, toll free 1-877-271-8435 or e-mail to info@pcil.org. ♦

Hudson County

Monday Morning Recruits New Members

Monday Morning is now recruiting people with disabilities, their families, friends, and the professionals who serve them to join Hudson County Regional Network. The Monday Morning Project is a statewide cross-disability advocacy movement for and by people with disabilities. The goal is to give people with disabilities a decision-making role in creating public policy. For Information 609-292-3745 ♦

hip Announces SAIL Grant

By Marianne Valls
Heightened Independence & Progress

Heightened Independence and Progress (hip) is proud to announce that we have received a \$12,000 grant from the Henry H. Kessler Foundation to begin a new program in Hudson County.

Special Assistance for Independent Living (SAIL) will provide financial aid to individuals with disabilities who live in Hudson County and need equipment or assistive devices such as grab bars, air conditioners, and wheelchairs. The goal of the program will be to enhance participants' ability to perform activities of daily living and/or broaden the array of lifestyle choices available.

If you or someone you know could benefit from this service, call Marilyn Gonzales or Noris Nunez at the Hudson hip office, 201-413-0521 (voice) or 201-413-0521. ♦

Ocean County

Adaptive Computer Lab: Open to Ocean County Residents

Ocean County College is pleased to announce the opening of an adaptive computer laboratory. The new Adaptive Computer Lab, located on the second floor of the college library in the Disability Resource Center (DRC), is now open to students and county residents alike.

The computers are equipped with software programs that are specially designed for people with disabilities. Other adaptive technology is also available in the Disability Resource Center (DRC) for use by people with disabilities.

The Adaptive Lab is open to the public during Library hours. If you have any questions, please call Linda Capuano at Ocean County College at 732-255-0456. ♦

Taken from: The Barrier Free Press

Bergen County

Assistive Technology for Students with Disabilities

The summer 2002 Assistive Technology Institute computer workshops are "100 hours" of a training project for students with disabilities. They are approved by the NJDOE and now offer CEUs. It is held at Bergen ETTC/Bergen County Special Services, 64 East Midland Avenue, Paramus, NJ 07625.

If you have a group of six or more teachers, therapists, child study team members or other school professionals working with students struggling with reading or writing, they can bring their workshops to you. If you do not have a computer lab, they can provide up to eight workstations, complete with all the necessary hardware and software. You provide the room. For more information, call Adam Krass at (201) 265-6300, Ext. 6060. ♦

New Program Funds Adaptive Equipment

The Special Assistance for Independent Living Program (SAIL) assists with the acquisition of adaptive equipment and devices. SAIL funding can be used to purchase items and to obtain services intended to enhance independent living. Medical and non-medical assistive devices covered under SAIL could also significantly increase day-to-day functioning. Bath benches, walkers, hearing aids, automobile hand controls, and wheelchair rentals are a sampling of the assistive technology SAIL covers.

Although funding limitations exist, SAIL can reduce or eliminate dependency and make it possible for people with disabilities to lead full and productive lives. If you would like more information about this program, contact Noris Nunez at 201-413-1200 (voice) or 201-413-0521 (TTD). ♦

Taken from: heightened independence & progress

Arts Task Force Publishes Access Guide

The New Jersey Arts Task Force has published an Access Guide detailing access and accommodation availability at NJ cultural venues. To obtain a copy of **Discover New Jersey** call 973-593-0189. ♦

Morris County

Pen Pals Sought for Children with Disabilities

The Children's Hopes & Dreams-Wish Fulfillment Foundation is offering the opportunity for children to receive a pen pal. The criteria is that the child, between 5 and 17 years of age, has a life threatening illness, chronic disease, or disability, or has lost a parent or sibling (as a result of divorce, separation, incarceration, or military deployment) or has a seriously ill parent or sibling.

The child that falls under any of the above criteria may be eligible to participate in this pen pal program, guaranteed to be matched with a child out of his state or country. This can be a valuable experience for children who suffer from the above stated conditions and want to share their thoughts and ideas with other children in similar situations.

For additional Information about Children's Hopes & Dreams-Wish Foundation, please write to: 280 Route 46, Dover, NJ 07801, Call: (973) 361-7366, Fax: (973) 361-6627; or Email: CHDFpenpal@juno.com. ♦

Taken from: Post Polio News

ADA Watch: Web site Launched

A coalition of disability rights organizations has announced the launch of ADA WATCH.org, an Internet site designed to defend and strengthen the implementation of the ADA. The site will serve as an informational network and advocacy tool of the ADA Watch coalition of disability rights organizations. Organizations include ADAPT, the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, the Disability Rights Center, the National Association of Protection and Advocacy System, the National Council on Independent Living, the National Disabled Student Union, the National Organization on Disability and many others. Access the web site at www.adawatch.org ♦

Taken from: Access Newsletter

"Literature is my Utopia. Here I am not disfranchised. No barrier of the senses shuts me out from the sweet, gracious discourse of my book friends. They talk to me without embarrassment or awkwardness."

Helen Keller

Hearing Loss: How Loud Is Too Loud?

Hearing loss can be a result of the activities we encounter on a regular basis. It is important to understand the types of noises and decibels a person can be exposed to and for how long before the person might incur hearing damage.

Protect your ears.

Know which noises can cause damage. Wear earplugs when you are involved in a loud activity.

110 Decibels:	Regular exposure or unprotected exposure for more than 1 min risks permanent hearing loss.
100 Decibels	No more than 15 min unprotected exposure recommended
90 Decibels	Prolonged exposure to noise 90+ decibels can cause gradual hearing loss.

Decibels	Type of Noise
0	Threshold Normal Hearing
20	Whispered Voice
40	Refrigerator Humming
60	Normal Conversation
80	City Traffic Noise
90	Lawn Mower
100	Wood Shop
110	Chainsaw
120	Boom Box Radio or Snowmobile
140	Rock Concert or Firecrackers

For more information, contact: National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) Information Clearinghouse, 1 Communication Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20892-3456, 1-800-352-1044 Voice, 1-800-241-1055 TTY or <http://www.nih.gov/nidcd/clearing.htm> ♦

Taken from: National Institute on Deafness & Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)

Golden Eagle Passport Free for People with Disabilities

A Golden Eagle Passport is free to travelers with disabilities. It is a lifetime pass, allowing free entrance to all government national parks, monuments, and recreation areas. It also gets you a 50% discount on camping, boat launching, and parking fees. For more information, call 202-619-7222. ♦

Taken From: DAWN Newsletter

hip to Hold ADA Workshop

The latest aspects of Americans with Disabilities Act cases being heard by the courts will be addressed at a seminar on October 3rd. Heightened Independence and Progress (**hip**) has been a hub site of the Northeast Americans with Disabilities Act and Information Technology Center at Cornell University for the past five years. Through this collaboration, **hip** has been providing a great deal of technical assistance and information throughout northern New Jersey.

On October 3rd, in collaboration with Bergen Community College, an "ADA Update Workshop" will be held at Bergen Community College. Contact **hip** at 201-996-9100 for further information. ♦

Woman, continued from page 8

HCSC Testifies Before Assembly Committee

**By Christine Cripps-Barker, C.I.R.S.
Division of Disability Services**

Members of the Health Care Steering Committee testified before the Assembly Health and Human Services Committee at a public hearing held on May 10, 2002 in Teaneck. The speakers urged legislators to improve access to health care for women with disabilities.

Agency representatives for people with disabilities addressed such barriers as access to accessible equipment, availability of transportation, and attitudinal barriers presented by physicians. Speakers urged the Committee, chaired by Assemblywoman Loretta Weinberg, D-Teaneck, to create a health care resource center that would assist people with disabilities.

Richard L. Bruno, M.D., Director of the Post-Polio Institute, suggested that lawmakers consider requirements that oblige health care providers, as a condition of license renewal, to provide proof that their offices are accessible, as defined by the NJ State Barrier Free Subcode.

Janice Sangle, of the Greater NJ Chapter of the MS Society, asked the Committee to investigate the financial penalties associated with utilization of out-of-network health care providers. Sangle suggested that the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) initiate a committee to include people with disabilities, as well as manufacturers that build, sell and maintain equipment, to research and write medical equipment standards. Additionally, Sangle recommended that ANSI provide recommendations for best practice guidelines to the State of New Jersey and establish a medical waiver to insurance providers, recognizing valid exemptions for unavoidable out-of-network services.

Three pieces of legislation have been introduced. Updates on the legislative activity will be featured in subsequent editions of *Visions*. Text is available at www.njleg.state.nj.us. ♦

Corzine Holds Press Conference on EPVA Requested Legislation

On August 18th, Senator Jon Corzine (D-NJ) held a press conference to announce the introduction of Senate Bill 2583 (S2583) that would increase funding for veterans' health care in areas with high costs of living, such as New York and New Jersey. The Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association (EPVA) applauds Senator Corzine for introducing this legislation and called upon its members to participate in the press event.

S2583, introduced at EPVA's request, would replace the existing national income threshold (about \$24,000 per year for a veteran with no dependents) for classification as a low-income veteran (which makes the veteran without a service-connected disability, eligible for free health care), with regionally adjusted thresholds that better reflect the cost of living in a particular locale (about \$36,000 for a veteran living in New Jersey). These regionally adjusted thresholds would be defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and would be the same thresholds that determine eligibility for HUD's Section 8 Housing program. This legislation is similar to House Bill 3447 (HR3447) that was introduced by Congressman Chris Smith, Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, and passed by the House during the last session of Congress. EPVA has been working on this issue for a long time and strongly supports this legislation.

The VA currently uses a single national income threshold that applies, regardless of the geographic cost-of-living differences. This threshold does not adequately address many individual veterans' inability to "defray the cost of care" and has forced some veterans to pay for part of their treatment. Clearly, the most direct way to address this problem is to adjust the national threshold by locality to more accurately reflect the differences in geographic cost-of-living, as this legislation would do. This locality-adjusted threshold would help many veterans, with low incomes, receive health care from the VA at no cost. The individual VA health care networks, otherwise known as VISNs (Veterans Integrated Service Networks), would then begin to receive VA reimbursement for their care.

When Congress established VA health care eligibility, the income threshold was designed to determine which veterans were unable to defray the cost of their health care. It was expected that veterans with incomes above the threshold would be able to afford secondary, private insurance from which the VISN could then collect reimbursement for services provided. However, with the disproportionate high cost of living that exists in the New York metropolitan area and other urban locations, these senators, along with EPVA, believe it is unfair to expect veterans with incomes slightly above \$24,000 to afford private insurance. This single national threshold is not a valid indicator of the veterans' ability to defray the cost of their care.

All of the veterans in New York and New Jersey suffer as a result of the single national threshold. The VA health care system in this area is being forced to stretch an already inadequate budget even thinner, due to this inequitable threshold. EPVA appreciates both Congressman Smith and Senator Corzine for their efforts on behalf of our members and we now call upon our members to show their support. ♦

Taken from EPVA Website www.epva.org

Beach Accessories

By Ruth Wyler Plaut

Love sun, sand, and the ocean, but your assistive devices don't adapt? There is a new "dune buggy" for those of us who move on wheels that will carry us across the sand and into the water. It requires someone to push it across the beach and also to steady it in the water, if you want to sail the ocean waves, but it moves beautifully.

In August, exploring handicapped accessible areas on Cape Cod, I had the chance to try out the special beach wheelchair at one of the beaches in Orleans. We had to reserve the chair for the afternoon. It was a jazzy chrome and aqua model. The wheels were made of rather soft aqua rubber, some 14 inches in diameter and a good 6 inches across, that did not sink into the sand easily. They claimed that the wheels would provide enough buoyancy to take me out on the water without sinking. I hadn't expected this extra feature, so wasn't dressed for going into the water.

The chair seat and back were a turquoise mesh, the arm rests were simple wooden ones that raised up to get into the chair, and the footrest was just a bar with no back support. To move, there was a pushing bar, no hand grips for the passenger or brakes.

Thanks to this new creation, I was able to get far onto the beach and enjoy the afternoon without having to worry about how to get the sand out of the ankle and knee joints of my brace or getting my standard wheelchair mired in the sand. ♦

Taken from: NJ Polio Network Newsletter

Teens on the Move Again for Fall

Teens on the Move will be resuming its autumn schedule in early October. TOM has been designed as a recreational program for teenagers with physical, sensory, and learning disabilities who reside in Bergen County. A variety of workshops and outings have taken place for several years and the autumn season promises to be an exciting one. Contact Lucy Montalvo at 201-966-9100 for further information. ♦

Taken from: hip News

GUEST AUTHOR

Family Support Awareness Day: Going the Distance, Caregiving Over the Lifespan

By **Eileen C. Coyne**
Director, Family Support Center

The Family Support Center, through a collaboration of many human service organizations that provide family support programs statewide, is planning their **8th Annual Statewide Family Support Awareness Day**.

Family Support Awareness Day 2002 will be themed **"Going the Distance: Caregiving Over the Lifespan."** The day will focus on providing informal care of people with all forms of disabilities, from birth through senior years. It will be held at the Pines Manor in Edison on October 22, 2002 from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

Last year, over 400 family members, consumers, professionals, and legislators throughout the state attended workshops and exhibits designed for those who care for individuals with special health care needs. All in attendance had the opportunity to enhance their caregiving skills and raise their awareness of family support services and programs. They were also able to communicate to their state legislators and policymakers the need, benefit, and importance of more Family Support Services, as well as advocate for the continuation and enhancement of the existing services in New Jersey.

This informative event is free to families and includes a deluxe continental breakfast and full sit-down luncheon. There is a nominal registration fee for professionals, which helps to defray the cost of the event and allow families to register for free. The Family Support Hall of Fame Awards is a highlight of the event and honors individuals, professionals, and legislators who have unselfishly devoted time and energy to improving and providing quality family support services in our state.

Any agencies interested in contributing to this statewide effort should contact the Family Support Center by phone at 800-372-6510/732-262-8020, fax 732-262-7805, or e-mail at fscnj@aol.com, no later than September 13, 2002. ♦

Family Support Day
Information on the Web at
www.familysupportnj.org

LEGAL BRIEFS

CHLP Wins Favorable Settlement in Frick v. Sussex County Community College

The Community Health Law Project recently won a favorable settlement in a case that clarified the rights of people with diabetes to attend to their medical needs in public places. The case, *Frick v. Sussex County Community College*, involved a student whose professor refused to allow her to test her blood sugar level and inject insulin through her clothing during class meetings. Although this would be an unobtrusive activity that would take place only from time to time, the professor asserted that she and her students might find the activity disturbing and, therefore, disruptive to the class.

The student attempted to resolve the matter through meetings with college administrators, but the college supported the action of the faculty member. In what is described as an offer of reasonable accommodation, the college gave the student the "opportunity" to leave her classroom whenever necessary and go to an empty classroom to attend to her condition. The student rejected this offer, because it would infringe upon her freedom to attend to her needs in public without unnecessary interference, segregate her from the classroom, and cause her to miss valuable class time.

The Community Health Law Project filed suit on her behalf in the Chancery Division of Superior Court, alleging violations of Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination. The American Diabetes Association provided critical support in developing the case, especially with regard to obtaining expert witnesses.

Shortly before the case was to go to trial, the college agreed to a settlement. According to the terms of the settlement, the student may attend to her health needs as a diabetic during class, and at all other times and places on campus, without interference from the college, its employees, students, or any other party. The terms of the settlement extend to all other persons, including students, employees, and visitors, with diabetes. In addition, the college agreed to pay attorney fees to the Community Health Law Project for its work on behalf of the student. ♦

Taken From The Independent, Spring 2002

Online "Disability Museum" Opens

"Few of us realize that people with disabilities have a rich and dramatic history relevant to all Americans," says Laurie Block. "Nearly all of us know someone with a disability, and this has always been the case."

As an expansion of her work in putting together the award-winning National Public Radio documentary "Beyond Affliction," Block has opened the Disability History Museum—www.disabilitymuseum.org—a searchable, theme-based digital collection that offers documents and images related to disability history in the United States, drawn from public and private collections around the country.

Highlights include a memoir by Isaac Hunt of his years in the Maine Insane Hospital—"Astounding Disclosures, Three Years In A Mad House, 1852"—a number of articles from the mid-20th century, and essays by the late disability sociologist Irving Zola.

Materials in the library date back to the 18th century—"they illuminate daily life, work, charity, popular culture, local and national political milestones, shifts in visual representation and medical knowledge, and the rise and fall of a variety of social movements," says Block.

The Disability History Museum's library is an extension and considerable expansion of the materials assembled by Block, Executive Director of Straight Ahead Pictures, Inc., for the award winning series *Beyond Affliction: The Disability History Project*. Its document collection contains articles, pamphlets, letters, book excerpts, and other texts; its visual still collection contains photographs, paintings, postcards, lithographs, and other visual materials. An audio collection will be added in the future. Virtual exhibits and education curricula are in the works as well.

The library collection policy is focused on US primary source material from 1775-1990, covering topics that include physical, psychiatric, sensory, and cognitive disability issues across the generations, says Block. Currently, two collections are available, documents and visual stills, and they are searchable by keyword, format, date, source, and title. "The collection is growing at the rate of approximately 100 artifacts a month," says Block. ♦

Taken from: *Monday Morning*

"*In the middle of a difficulty lies opportunity.*"

-Albert Einstein

Nursing Homes: A Checklist

What to look for...

- ♦ Visit a facility on different days and at various times, including mealtimes, and take note of nursing staffing levels.
- ♦ Talk to members of the nursing staff about how long they and others have worked there.
- ♦ Ask the nursing home administrators about staff-to-resident ratios.
- ♦ Get a copy of the most recent state surveys of the facility to learn if it has been cited for deficiencies.
- ♦ Ask if a facility has a plan of care for each resident and if it is revised continually.

For a free copy of AARP's "Solving Nursing Home Problems: A Guide for Families" (stock #D17065) send a request to AARP Fulfillment EE01522, 601 E Street NW, Washington DC 20049. Include the title, stock number and your mailing address or visit their web-site at:

www.aarp.org/indexes/health.html

Taken from: AARP

DHSS Helps with Long Term Care Search

The Department of Health and Senior Services, Division of Long Term Care Systems, provides a wealth of resources to assist with the selection of long term care facilities.

Information can be accessed by calling 609-633-9060 or via the web at www.state.nj.us/health/ltc/index.html

Important Message About Medicare Deductible and Coinsurance Payments

A Medical Summary Notice is NOT a bill. Individuals may be expected to pay the amounts listed in the "You May Be Billed" column. Usually, individuals will be billed these amounts by the professional who provided the service or the facility at which the service was provided. Payments for which individuals may be billed include deductible and coinsurance. These payments should not be paid to Medicare. ♦

Taken from: Center for Medicare & Medicare Services

Cookbook for People with Developmental Disabilities

People with developmental disabilities can now dabble in the fine art of cooking with "Cooking Made Easy." Every recipe is coded from 1-5, according to level of difficulty. Recipes are written in large print, for easier reading, and are broken down into detailed, easy-to-understand steps. Dollar sign codes on each recipe signify cost of ingredients. There are about 88 recipes, divided into the following categories: Appetizers/Beverages, Soups/ Salads, Vegetables, Main Dishes, Breads/Rolls, Desserts, and Breakfast. For more information, go to: <http://www.cookingmadeeasy.org> or, if you would like a flyer and order form, contact: Eileen Laird (eileen@cookingmadeeasy.org) PO Box 2117, Broome, NJ 28607. ♦

Taken from: DAWN Newsletter

Medicare Coverage for Glaucoma Screening

Beginning January 1, 2002 Medicare covers screening exams for glaucoma for certain people at risk. People at risk include:

- ♦ People with diabetes
- ♦ People with a family history of Glaucoma
- ♦ African Americans who are 50 and older

The test may be covered once every 12 months. They may be performed by or under the direct supervision of an ophthalmologist or an optometrist. ♦

Taken from: Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services

Have Questions About Medicare Policy or Services?

1-800-Medicare

Supreme Court Decision Weakens ADA

By Daisy Gomez
Division of Disability Services

On June 10, 2002, the Supreme Court, with a vote of 9-0, ruled that individuals with disabilities could not demand jobs that threaten their own lives or health. In turn, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission upholds that it can interpret the Americans with Disabilities Act's regulations of accommodating disabled people in the workplace, "unless a threat to others," to mean that it would deny employment to disabled people who are a threat to themselves. And, all this in the best interest of the employers who now don't have to worry about lawsuits associated with the rejection of employees with a disability. The ruling, however, does not give the employees unrestricted power to deny employment to a disabled person because each case of rejection must fit specified medical guidelines.

The case was brought into light by Mario Echazabal, who was denied work twice, for the position of helper in the coker unit at Chevron's El Segundo oil refinery. Mr. Echazabal had worked there for 20 years and was offered the position if a medical exam showed that he was healthy enough to perform the task. Test results later showed Mr. Echazabal as having uncorrectable liver abnormalities (later diagnosed as chronic active Hepatitis C). Working in the coker would expose him to chemicals that would further cause damage to his liver and inevitably kill him. Mr. Echazabal filed a lawsuit against Chevron in 1997. It was approved under the protection of ADA because it was not stated anywhere that a person could be denied employment on the basis of being a danger to his own life.

The real threats here are that individuals with disabilities will face fewer work options and that the overall involvement in work among disabled individuals would be lessened. There already exists a lack of representation of the disabled in the work force.

This type of ruling, in which the employer defeats the employee, only weakens the ability of the ADA to do its job in protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities. ♦

2002 Marks the 12th Birthday of the ADA

Full Coverage on Page 18

HAPPY 12TH BIRTHDAY ADA

Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) is one of the most compassionate and successful civil rights laws in American history. In the 12 years since President George H. W. Bush signed the ADA into law, more people with disabilities are participating fully in our society than ever before. As we mark this important anniversary, we celebrate the positive effect this landmark legislation has had upon our Nation, and we recognize the important influence it has had in improving employment opportunities, government services, public accommodations, transportation, and telecommunications for those with disabilities.

Today, Americans with disabilities enjoy greatly improved access to countless facets of life; but more work needs to be done. We must continue to build on the important foundations established by the ADA. Too many Americans with disabilities remain isolated, dependent, and deprived of the tools they need to enjoy all that our Nation has to offer.

My Administration is committed to removing the barriers that prevent people with disabilities from realizing their full potential and achieving their dreams. The New Freedom Initiative, which I announced last year, builds on the hopeful path of the ADA. It provides Americans with disabilities increased access to assistive technologies, expands educational options, and increases opportunities for them to integrate into our workforce. We are committed to ensuring the delivery of vital services to disabled persons in an integrated, community-based setting.

My Administration will continue to enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act, and we will work with businesses and State and local governments to increase partnerships that promote the purposes of the ADA. Together, we are working for a day when all people with disabilities are able to live and work with dignity, freedom, and independence and realize their potential as fully integrated members of our society.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim July 26, 2002, as a day in celebration of the 12th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. I call upon public officials, business leaders, people with disabilities, and all Americans to pursue the ADA's full promise of equal opportunity and to celebrate the expanded freedom that the ADA has brought to American life.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Famous ADA Cases

Sutton v. United Airlines

Determination of disability must include measures that might mitigate a disability, such as, in this case, eyeglasses for those with visual impairments.

Murphy v. United Parcel Service

The court found that a UPS worker's high blood pressure did not significantly limit his life activities when the worker was medicated, and that he was, therefore, not disabled

Albertsons, Inc. v. Kirkingburg

The Supreme Court held that circumstances mitigating the determination of disability include not only devices and medications, but also an individual's ability to compensate for their impairment.

Olmstead v. L.C.

Banning discrimination may call for placing people with mental disabilities in community settings rather than in institutions, when the state's treatment professionals find the placement appropriate, the affected person is not against the shift from an institutional to a community setting, and the placement can be reasonably accommodated.

Cleveland v. Policy Management Systems

Pursuing and/or receiving Social Security Disability Insurance benefits does not automatically prevent an individual from pursuing an ADA claim, nor do such SSDI benefits presume against the recipient's ADA success.

Wright v. Universal Maritime Service Corp.

The Supreme Court ruled that a general arbitration clause in a collective bargaining agreement does not require an employee to use the arbitration procedure for an alleged ADA violation.

Pennsylvania Dept. of Corrections v. Yeskey

State prisons must comply with Title II of the ADA, as they are public entities.

Bragdon v. Abbott

The Supreme Court found that, even when HIV has not progressed to AIDS, it still constitutes a disability, as the virus significantly impairs the life activity of reproduction. ♦

Taken From the Access News

THE RESOURCE SHELF

"Goodwill to Civil Rights" -- A Good Read

By **Marlene L. Hester, C.I.R.S.**
Division of Disability Services

In **From Goodwill to Civil Rights: Transforming Federal Disability Policy**, Richard K. Scotch details the process that led to the passage of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and other landmark pieces of disability-related civil rights legislation. While it is not really possible to separate the social from the political aspects of a civil rights movement, Scotch keeps his focus on the legislative processes – and flukes – which led to the recognition of Americans with disabilities as citizens with civil rights, rather than as dependents to be given charity.

During the 1960s, while civil rights were being won by groups who sought to end their disenfranchisement and gain a rightful place in mainstream society, there was widespread hesitancy to pursue such rights for people with disabilities. Both elected representatives and those representing people with disabilities (the author points out that up through the 60s, “organizations of those ‘representing’ disabled people were more prevalent than organizations of disabled people themselves”) feared that “the very notion of rights was likely to destroy the good will and charity which had allowed disabled people to advance as far as they had.”

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 was, itself, an important piece of federal legislation which mandated that all federal and federally funded agencies take affirmative action to employ people with disabilities. Readers may be surprised to learn that Section 504, which had an enormous and far-reaching impact by declaring that “No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States, as defined in Section 7(6), shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance,” was tagged on at the very end of the Act, with no open discussion in the House or Senate and, apparently, minimal consideration of its implications.

While a loose network of groups representing people with various disabilities were catalysts behind the passage of the Rehabilitation Act, it was the passage of Section 504 that was a major catalyst for this wide variety of specialized groups to gel into strong, organized cross-disability civil rights organizations which went on push for the Americans with Disabilities Act. “Conceivably,” states Scotch, “Section 504 could have remained a simple statement of good intentions.” But as word of Section 504 slowly spread and advocates began to consider its broad potential for mandating access and inclusion, they realized that it was necessary for people with disabilities to play an active role in its interpretation and implementation.

The coalition building that occurred in the wake of this realization resulted in a strong regulation for Section 504 and ultimately to the development of some of the nation's most influential disability rights organizations. “Access for disabled people has been institutionalized as a civil right...the basic concept that disabled people are entitled to full societal inclusion.” ♦

From Goodwill to Civil Rights: Transforming Federal Disability Policy. Richard K. Scotch, Temple University Press, 2001. ISBN: 1-56639-897-5

"Idiot's Guide" Can Make You An Expert

By **Marlene L. Hester, C.I.R.S.**
Division of Disability Services

If you've ever felt like a complete idiot while trying to understand the immense bureaucratic maze of the Social Security system, be assured that you are not alone. In fact, a book has just arrived on the market, which may help to clear up some of the confusion. **The Complete Idiot's Guide to Social Security** may not be a literary masterpiece, but it is a treasure trove for anyone needing no-nonsense Social Security facts, charts, definitions, and explanations.

Sections such as "Protecting Yourself If You Can't Work," "Benefits for Disabled Children over Age 18," "What If You Are Rejected," and "Rules for Supplementing Income," offer wonderfully simple, conversational step-by-step guidance that will allow a novice or a wearied old pro to understand what to do and what to expect. The book is peppered with helpful information boxes offering clarity on Social Security slang, little known rights and benefits, pitfalls to be avoided, and more.

Maybe your Social Security rep can't tell you "What Is Taxed" or about "What's Missing From Medicare," but **The Complete Idiot's Guide to Social Security** can. With its combination of humor and common sense, it is a welcome tool for anyone receiving benefits, applying for benefits, or just trying to support someone who is. ♦

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Social Security. Lita Epstein. Pearson Education, Inc., 2002. ISBN: 0-02-864617-8

SSA Fact Sheet Available Online

The Social Security Administration has published a fact sheet which details all the income limits to earn benefits. The fact sheet, SSA Publication 05-10003, is available online at www.ssa.gov ♦

Medical Nutrition Therapy Now Covered By Medicare

Medical Nutrition Therapy is called MNT. Medicare can now help to pay for MNT. A specially trained professional must provide the therapy. This professional will assess a patient's health status. Also, the professional will look at the patient's eating patterns and physical activities. The therapist then will create meal plans for the patient. The benefit is available to persons with diabetes or kidney failure.

After the individual meal plan is created, the patient's progress may be checked to see if the plan is working. The benefit does not cover dietary supplements or food.

A patient receiving MNT also may receive diabetes self-management training. This training serves a different purpose. However, Medicare cannot pay for both services on the same day.

A physician must write a referral for MNT. The referral must indicate a diagnosis of diabetes or kidney failure. Therapy may be provided on an individual or group basis. Medicare Part B cannot cover MNT for an inpatient in a hospital or skilled nursing facility. ♦

Taken from: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Medigap Policies Helps Fill Gaps in Medicare Benefits

Private insurance companies sell Medigap policies, following federal and state laws. Medigap policies cover the co-pays and deductibles associated with Medicare coverage.

If individuals have a medical condition when they join a Medigap plan, they may need to wait six months for coverage of services related to the medical condition.

Before they joined a Medigap plan, they may have had other insurance coverage. If you ended other insurance coverage fewer than 63 days before a Medigap plan began, you may not be subject to the waiting period. Your other insurance is referred to as "creditable coverage."

Forms of creditable coverage include Medicaid, TRICARE, a Medical HMO, or even Part A or Part B of Medicare. But, with Medicare Part A or Part B coverage, there is a catch: Medicare Part A or Part B are creditable coverage only if individuals enroll in a Medigap plan during the first six months that they are covered by Medicare at age 65. ♦

Taken from: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

U.S. DOT Creates Hotline for Flyers with Disabilities

The U.S. Department of Transportation recently announced their aviation consumer disability toll-free hotline. The hotline became operational at 7 a.m. on August 5, 2002.

"The toll-free number for our aviation consumer disability hotline is 1-866-266-1368 (voice) and 1-866-754-4368 (TTY). We ask that you advise members of your respective organizations about the establishment of the hotline and encourage them to call the hotline to obtain information and assistance, if they should experience disability-related air service problems. At this time, we would also like to express our sincere appreciation to those individuals who tested our hotline system by calling our toll-free number with simulated air traveler disability-related issues. The testing of the hotline system by disability community organizations has been very helpful and we have used the comments provided by representatives of the disability community to improve the hotline system. After several weeks of operations to fine-tune the hotline's operations, we will ask that a press release be issued to announce its availability to the general public," stated the DOT press release. ♦

Taken from Justice for All

Loan, continued from page 4

For more information on the family loan program, call the nearest community agency:

Family Service Association
Egg Harbor Township
(609) 569-0239

Center for Family Services
Camden
(856) 964-1990 Ext. 295

Children's Aid and Family Services
Paramus
(201) 261-2800

Northwest NJ Community Action Program (NORWESCAP)
Phillipsburg
(908) 859-1777

New Community Corp.
Newark
(973) 639-5613

Information is available on the web at:
www.state.nj.us/humanservices

40th Anniversary for Choice Magazine Listening, The Magazine that Talks

Choice Magazine Listening—a free, nationwide service that provides current, outstanding magazine writing on tape—celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, 2002. CML is offered at no cost to any US resident who is unable to read standard print due to loss of vision or other disability. Six times a year, CML selects eight hours of unabridged articles, short stories and poetry from leading publications, such as *The New Yorker*, *Smithsonian*, *National Geographic*, *Granta*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Gourmet Time*, *The Paris Review*, *Fortune*, and many more.

CML was the brainchild of the late LuEsther Mertz, a New York-area philanthropist, who felt that people who are blind should have access to the same noteworthy magazine writing as do sighted people. So, in 1962, she created the nonprofit Lucerna Fund specifically to bring this writing to special populations. Authors from CML's early years included such greats as James Thurber, Malcolm Cowley, Maxine Kumin, John Kenneth Galbraith, John Updike, Robert Graves, Arthur Miller, Rachel Carson, James Michener, Brendan Behan and Arnold Touynbee.

Today, the editors at CML read more than 100 publications, searching for memorable writing to bring to their subscribers across the US.

The special-speed cassette player required to listen to the four-track tapes is also free, on permanent loan, from the Library of Congress.

Those interested in receiving a free subscription can contact Choice Magazine Listening toll free: 1-888-724-6433; fax: 1-516-944-6849; mail: Choice Magazine Listening, 85 Channel Drive, Port Washington, NY 11050; email: choicemag@aol.com. The web page is www.choicelistening.org. CML can also provide information on how to obtain the free, special-speed cassette player. ♦

Census Corner

49.7 Million

Is the number of people age 5 and over with a disability in the US, according to Census 2000. This is a ratio of 1 in 5 US residents, or 19% of the total population. ♦

Source: US Census Bureau

DDS Joins AAPD in Mentoring Day Effort

The Division of Disability Services is pleased to announce that it will coordinate New Jersey's participation for National Disability Mentoring Day.

Disability Mentoring Day, nationally sponsored by the American Association of People With Disabilities (AAPD), the U.S. Department of Labor, and the Office of Disability Employment Policy, is designed to give job seekers with disabilities an opportunity for career exploration through hands-on job shadowing and job skill training. The program is expected to kick off on or about October 16, 2002 in congruence with the national celebration.

During the Mentoring Phase of the program, individuals will be asked to select a field of employment in which they wish to explore a potential career. They then will be assigned a mentor, who is working in that field. The mentor will take an active role in teaching the "mentee" about their profession. This may include a "job shadow," in which the mentee will spend a day at their mentor's workplace.

"This is a year-long program. We are hoping to run the gamut of the employment experiences, from preparation, to work, to job seeking and acquisition. We are hoping to help individuals with disabilities become employed by exposing them to others who are working," said Joe Amoroso, Program Coordinator.

Program planning will be coordinated by a committee with representation from government agencies, non-profit agencies and the corporate community.

Individuals or agencies who wish to become involved can contact Joe Amoroso at 888-285-3036, to discuss opportunities. Information on the national program also is available on the web at www.aapd-dc.org/mentor.html. ♦

Mentoring Day National Sponsors

AOL Time Warner
Cingular Wireless
Citigroup Corporate & Investment Bank
Darden Restaurants
Hewlett-Packard
Independence Technology, a Johnson & Johnson company
Microsoft Corporation
Pitney Bowes
Verizon

GUEST REVIEW

"The Fearless Caregiver", Valuable for Both New and Seasoned Caregivers

By: Peri L. Nearon, MPA
Administrator
Statewide Respite Care Program
Department of Health and Senior Services

The Fearless Caregiver: How to Get the Best Care for Your Loved One and Still Have a Life of Your Own can be described as a guide, organized in small sub-chapters, addressing a myriad of issues that are associated with informal caregiving. This book has a practical approach, even in its organization. It is written directly to caregivers, with the assumption that caregivers do not have much time, and may need to find relevant topics quickly and easily. Gary Barg, who edited the book, is the Editor-in-Chief of "Today's Caregiver Magazine," and also an experienced caregiver, himself. He has included articles and tips from the magazine, interspersed with vignettes, personal and professional, by both experts and caregivers.

Mr. Barg introduces the idea of becoming a fearless caregiver, armed with knowledge, and the desire to take an active role in the care of a loved one. He recognizes the high price attached to caregiving: stress, depression, poor health, self-neglect and often early death. The goal of the book is to help caregivers navigate the health care and social service system in order to obtain what is necessary for the well being of the individual who requires care, as well as for the caregiver. He asserts that there is a path for caregivers to follow some guidelines that will make any caregiving situation easier to handle.

The book includes the Caregivers Bill of Rights, which is a list of nine statements, including learning to ask for help and being part of the team. There are contributions from many sources, and the book covers a tremendous amount of material in small, easy-to-read mini chapters. Included are tools for caregivers, such as the Internet, and practical advice on health care, living wills, record keeping, insurance (health and life), drafting a will and financial planning, power of attorney and guardianship. There is a section on questions to ask the physician, tips on dealing with home health care, rehabilitation, eating difficulties and nutrition and medicine safety.

The book also touches on spiritual issues. There is a substantial section on Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia that is helpful in terms of common signs and diagnosis, as well as dealing with a loved one whose reality is altered. There are tips on driving (when to take away the keys), wandering, bathing and withdrawal.

They also touch on other specialized areas, such as AIDS, Cancer, Parkinson's and hip fractures.

Additional topics that are covered in this guide include long distance caregiving, caregiver stress and burnout, depression, surviving the holidays, coping with loss and finally, when it is no longer feasible to care for a loved one at home, choosing a nursing home.

There is something for everyone in this book, whether you have been a caregiver in the past, are a caregiver now, or will be one in the future. One does not need to read this book from start to finish, but can pick it up, flip through the sub-headings and find relevant and helpful tips on any given page. **The Fearless Caregiver** can be a valuable resource for those new to caregiving, as well as those more seasoned caregivers. ♦

The Fearless Caregiver: How to Get the Best Care for Your Loved One and Still Have a Life of Your Own.

Gary Barg, Capitol Books, 2001. ISBN: 1-892123-43-6

CAREGIVER RESOURCES FROM THE WEB

Today's Caregiver Magazine
www.caregiver.com

National Family Caregivers Association
www.nfcacares.org

Family Support Center of New Jersey
www.familysupportnj.com

Family Caregiver Alliance
www.caregiver.org

The Caregiver's Handbook
www5.biostat.wustl.edu/alzheimer/care.html

The Family Village
www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/general/care-givers.html

American Health Care Association
www.ahca.org

WellSpouse Foundation
www.wellspouse.org

Pity, continued from page 4

As many of us know, the word, "handicap" originates from individuals with disabilities having "caps in hand" to beg for change. Telethons and marathons, like begging, were tools of survival. When no laws existed to protect the rights of people with disabilities and their families, we all became part of the pity propaganda. The voice of individuals with disabilities was often muffled by cries from other groups. Pity, at this point in American society, was neither positive nor negative; it was merely a weapon used by anyone to co-exist or exist. Some may argue it was the shame of the second class citizenship of people with disabilities that moved the federal government to pass laws like the Rehabilitation Act and the ADA.

Today, pity works against individuals with disabilities by promoting a mindset that nothing is possible for individuals with disabilities when many options, in fact, exist. I have encountered many peers in the nearly two decades that I have had a disability, and I must tell you that nothing is more distressing than an individual who has learned self-pity. I have known people who have become disabled and believe that it is not worth the effort to try to improve their quality of life. They have found the worst kind of pity: self-pity in a world where others often pity you because you have a disability. They thus acquire a perfect state of nothingness, neither moving forward nor back, while able-bodied counterparts continue to evolve.

In an imperfect world, where labels and self-image dominate the media, education, and the mindset of most Americans, individuals with disabilities must unshackle themselves from the binds of pity. In the process, Americans must let go of their misconceptions and feelings of pity about people with disabilities, who have, in fact, the ability to be productive and contributing citizens. ♦

Editor's Note

Many of the readers of the April 2002 edition of **VISIONS** have asked about reprinting or obtaining copies of Javier's story "My Hero has Four Legs". I am very glad that you enjoyed the story, and ask that any reprinting of it include a citation giving credit to both Javier Robles and to **VISIONS**, a publication of the Division of Disability Services. Text of the story can be found online at the Division of Disability Services website. Please click on Publications and then on the April 2002 edition of **VISIONS**. The URL is listed below. ♦

www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dds

NOTA BENE

Congratulations and Good Luck to our colleagues who have recently retired:

Carol Anderson	24 years
James DeMontigny	30 years
Donald P. Hartz	32 years
Joyce Quinnan	23 years

Congratulations to **Iliana Roman** of the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant Program on her marriage July 20, 2002 to Handrik Ceballos

Joseph Amoroso of Information and Referral recently completed the levels I-III of the Certified Public Manager Program.

Ditto and Fraser Honored by hip

Division Director **William A. B. Ditto** was recently honored by Heightened Independence and Progress (hip) for his career of service to individuals with disabilities.

Ditto was a guest of honor at a gala reception held at the Fort Lee Recreation Center on June 1, 2002.

During the evening with patriotic theme, Ditto was toasted as a professional whose "...long career has been one of passionate advocacy for people with disabilities, and he is a person who meets his constituency on a warm person-to-person level. He brings to the Division, rich experience in issues related to health, disability, and aging. Personal care services, consumer directed services, health care policy and financing and family support are all within his areas of expertise and concern. He has pursued broad-based innovations in programming with special attention to the needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities."

Additionally, Mr. Ditto was presented with a New Jersey Assembly Resolution, sponsored by Assemblywoman Loretta Weinberg and Assemblyman Gordon Johnson, in honor and recognition of his "meritorious record of service and commitment."

The evening also honored the life and career of disability advocate Colleen L. Fraser, who lost her life in the crash of Flight 93 on September 11, 2001. Ms. Fraser's sister Christine gratefully accepted the posthumous accolades on her sister's behalf. ♦

VISIONS

A Publication for Professionals in the Human
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